



Chieftain

50 YEARS

VOLUME 54, NUMBER 4

ITAWAMBA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FEBRUARY 17, 2025



ICC enrollment up again for spring '25

Staff Reports

Itawamba Community College ranks among the leaders in the state in full-time enrollment increase, according to figures released this week by the Mississippi Community College Board.

With spring enrollment at 4,774 at the end of the 10-day reporting period, figures from spring 2024-spring 2025 show a 6.7 percent increase, which comes after a multi-year increase in both fall and spring enrollments.

WHY AN INCREASE?

The continuing increase over the last two reporting periods can be attributed to multiple factors, according to ICC President Dr. Jay Allen. They include additional housing opportunities tailored to student needs, including the addition of Magnolia Hall exclusively for student leaders and reopening of both Sheffield and Monroe Halls with spaces designed to accommodate the ICC student of today as well as an enhanced emphasis on activities."

"This very exciting news demonstrates a collaborative effort between all areas of the college to allow for continued enrollment growth," Allen said. "What the figures don't show is that residence halls remain at a more than 95 percent capacity this spring. The increase in the number of students that ICC is serving is significant because we have additional opportunities to provide a solid educational foundation and the best start for those in our five-county district and beyond."

IMPORTANCE OF ENGAGEMENT

"Statistics show that the more students are engaged, the more successful they will be in the classroom," according to ICC Vice President of

Student Services Dr. Brad Boggs. "Having an attractive, comprehensive student activities program plays a major role in attracting students to attend ICC and subsequently an opportunity to retain students once they enroll." The renewed emphasis on student activities includes opportunities for both traditional age students as well as adult learners at all three locations - Fulton, Tupelo and Belden - based on listening to ICC students and staff and providing programs/events that are of interest to all. "Student engagement is an opportunity for students to make lifelong friendships and connections as well as to participate in fun activities, especially with the reopening of the Student Activities Center during the 2024 fall semester, which is designed to provide the BEST opportunities for all students."

In addition, Itawamba Community College has transitioned to a Schools of approach to group like students into a cohort to enable students to connect better with their selected field of study as well as with those in the same area, such as academic transfer and career education.

TUITION A FACTOR

In comparison to all other higher education options in the state, both public and private, ICC has the second lowest cost of tuition and fees combined and the lowest in north Mississippi. While the updated enrollment figures include online, academic and career education classes, they do not include workforce totals, which are not measured on a semester basis, Allen said.

"Because of the dedication of ICC's faculty and staff, our Board of Trustees and external funding support, we continue to provide an affordable and

quality option, which has been documented in the naming of ICC among the top 150 in the nation by the Aspen Institute and the continuation of a significant grant as part of the Metallica Scholars Initiative to provide scholarships to underserved students, only one of 60 colleges in the nation," Allen said. "In addition, the work of our recruiters, enrollment services and community relations team and our entire institution has contributed to this Increase in enrollment, a true collaborative effort by all members of the ICC family."

OUTSTANDING GRADUATES

Allen also noted that data from the Institutions of Higher Learning shows that ICC produces graduates that when they attend any of the state's universities, they generate the second highest number of bachelor's degrees by transfer students. They also graduate with a higher GPA than the student who started at the university.

"We are always excited to hear that more students have chosen to become a member of our ICC family," said Michael Holloway, director of Recruitment and Orientation. "Free spring orientation sessions will begin soon at both our Fulton and Tupelo campuses, and there are multiple opportunities to attend in April, June and July. Students who are joining our ICC family this fall will receive their BEST start as they learn about ICC, hear from college administrators, schedule their classes and begin to prepare for their transition to ICC. I truly believe that ICC provides the best instruction in academic transfer, career education and health sciences programs, including those that are online." - *See Increase, page six.*

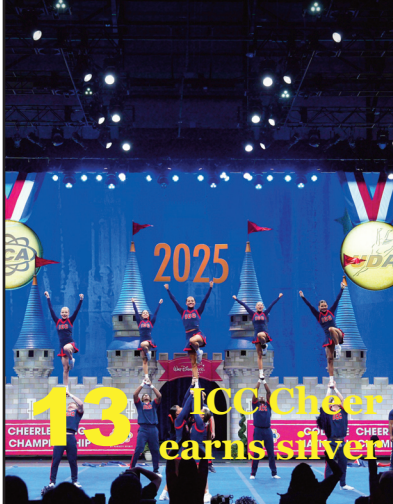
For the latest
news
updates
.....
See
www.iccms.edu



Celebrating
Career Ed.



Myatt exhibit
now on display



ICC Cheer
earns silver

Inside

Viewpoints
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VIEWPOINT
ANGIE HERRING
Mental Health Coordinator

So you think
you know ADHD?

Itawamba Community College has started its Bloom program, and among the areas covered is ADHD.

It's likely that when most people hear the term ADHD, they think of a fidgety, wide-eyed person who is easily distracted, jumping from one thought to the next in no certain order and...oh, look...a squirrel! Right?

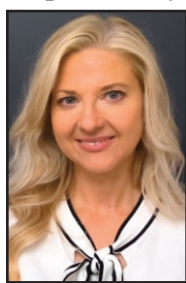
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, or ADHD, is a term that is tossed around loosely in our society to describe just such an individual. However, these behaviors barely scratch the surface of what is currently known about the disorder.

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, fifth edition, describes ADHD as a developmental disorder that is characterized by impulsive or hyperactive behaviors and/or inattention that are present in an individual before the age of 12. Three types of ADHD can be understood by their behavioral designation: inattentive, impulsive/hyperactive or combined (both inattentive and impulsive/hyperactive).

However, Dr. Russell Barkley, a leading expert in the field of ADHD research and psychology, challenges us to look beyond the current stereotype. He says that the disorder should not be viewed simply through the lens of hyperactivity and impulsivity, but of self-regulation. It is often viewed as a display of hyperactive and impulsive behaviors without consideration that it is the lack of emotional regulation that drives the behaviors of hyperactivity, impulsivity and inattention. As a consequence, oppositional defiant disorder (ODD), bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder and generalized anxiety disorder often occur alongside ADHD, and may even be misdiagnosed due to many shared features.

Just as we can see that a person with ADHD has difficulty controlling their body movements externally, they have trouble managing their emotions internally. Therefore, this deficit in self-regulation affects a person's emotions, vocation/education, and most troubling, their relationships. Dr. Barkley says, "Friends forgive you, your distractibility, your forgetfulness...and even your restlessness. They will not forgive your anger, your hostility, the quickness with which you emote...because it is offensive. It is socially costly." Therefore, children with ADHD may be left out of social events and friend groups, while adults may have trouble holding long-term relationships. Social challenges may be due to frequently interrupting others, difficulty waiting their turn and even more extreme, "rejection sensitivity." Rejection sensitivity is an exaggerated sense of emotional rejection when compared to their actual circumstances.

Another note of interest is that Barkley's research shows that people with ADHD neurodivergence have hundreds of thousands more nerve endings than those with a neurotypical brain. - **See What is ADHD?, page ten.**



OPINION
POLL

“
How is
ICC
different
from
your high
school?
”

Sara Davis
Chieftain Staff

“It's a lot more studying and regular tests, but there's a lot more freedom, too.” - **Madison Richardson, Tupelo, sophomore**

“ICC's more comfortable; I've made friends and there's a better atmosphere of support from the school.” - **Breana Shannon, Tupelo, sophomore**

“There's more diverse staff and students. I love learning all about the different cultures.” - **Vashawna Fleming, New Albany, freshman**

“The schedules are so much less draining. It's more tailored to the student's needs. I also talk to more people. It's less clique-based than high school.” - **Jayden Miller, Pontotoc, sophomore**

“There's always something going on. Lots of events. There's more freedom to express yourself here.” - **Kassandra Ramirez, Pontotoc, sophomore**

“Freedom of choice, more opportunities and more help with your personal development.” - **Iris New-some, Okolona, freshman**

“Teachers are more interested in helping us learn here. I feel like I'm less afraid of asking questions.” - **Julia Gray, Pontotoc, freshman**

“People are more friendly at ICC. There's more help available and lots of activities.” - **Melissa Ramirez, Ackerman, sophomore**

“It's bigger for sure. It feels different not knowing everybody, but I prefer the freedom of college. It's got a better school-life balance, and I feel like I've made lifelong friends here.” - **Kent Humphries, Red Bay, Ala., sophomore**

VIEWPOINT
KARA GRAHAM
Chieftain Staff

Living with
learning disabilities

According to the National Center for Education Statistics in 2022-23, research found that students between the ages of 3-21 who received services from the Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was 7.5 million or roughly 15 percent of all public school students.

The U.S. Department of Education states that IDEA is a law that makes free and appropriate education accessible to children with disabilities throughout the country and ensures special education and services to those children.

The most common category among students receiving services from the IDEA, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, was learning disabilities at 32 percent. A few examples of learning disabilities include dyslexia, dysgraphia and dyscalculia.

My sister struggled with a learning disability while in school. Sometimes I would see her become frustrated while working on schoolwork or tasks. I would also see her have trouble remembering sequences and directions when they were given more than three at a time or if they were spoken at a fast pace. Many people outside of our family would grow irritated as they were under the impression that she was not listening to them while they were giving directions when it was quite the opposite. As a loving sister, it hurt to see my sister struggling with learning and comprehension, but with resources and a loving hand, she has grown into one of the most brilliant people I know.

As a family member of someone with a learning disability, I understand the struggles that come along with them. Seeing my family members struggle, I understand the importance of resources regarding those with learning disabilities. While it may seem minor to some, having quiet study spaces, trained professionals and resources, such as longer test times, can make the difference between staying in school and dropping out. These resources helped those I love to reach their full potential as a student and can help others as well.

Besides learning disabilities, other things such as ADHD play a huge role in struggles in the classroom. According to the CDC, children with ADHD can have problems paying attention in class, become overly active and struggle controlling impulsive behaviors. Providing things such as fidget toys or a sensory-friendly study room can be a great benefit to students struggling with ADHD and other disabilities as well. According to MedicalNewsToday, fidget toys help hyperactive-impulsive ADHD.

Every student deserves to reach their full potential. The importance of accommodation regarding things like learning disabilities, ADHD, as well as other disabilities will help each student become the brilliant person they were made to be and enhance the brightness of their future.



Chieftain 50
VOLUME

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Itawamba Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404.679.4500 for questions about the accreditation of Itawamba Community College.
Itawamba Community College is an equal opportunity institution. The College strictly prohibits discrimination in its educational programs and activities, employment practices and admissions processes on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, ethnicity, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran or other status protected by applicable law.
For more information, contact the Vice President of Student Services, 602 West Hill Street, Fulton, MS 38843, 662.862.8271, or email TitleIXCoordinator@iccms.edu.

Faculty SPOTLIGHT

MORGAN CUTTURINI

Instructor, English/Film

FAMILY: Married to Al Cutturini; son, 29 (lives in North Carolina)

EDUCATION: Attended Wood Junior College before transferring to Mississippi State University; earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in English

WHAT DO YOU CURRENTLY TEACH OR HAVE TAUGHT: *English Composition, American Literature, British Literature, Film Production, Film is Literature*

SPONSOR: ICC Films

TEACHING EXPERIENCE: *Taught at Dalton College in Georgia, Tarrant County Community College in Texas, Delgado Community College in New Orleans*



POSITIVE ASPECTS OF TEACHING: *"I get to be around college students who are full of life, creative, interesting, curious, staring off, trying to figure out who they are. I love that."*

NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF TEACHING: *"In terms of negatives, and in terms of being an English teacher, it's grading. It's not necessarily that grading is hard or bad, but it's just so much of it."*

ADVICE TO STUDENTS: *"Always be in class and do your homework. If you can do those two things, you can do anything."*

A FUN FACT TO KNOW ABOUT THE TEACHER/FACULTY MEMBER: *"I'm an independent film producer."*

SYDNEY BARBER
Chieftain Staff



Remar Talley of Tupelo practices techniques and processes during a recent Precision Machining and Manufacturing Technology class at the ICC Belden Center.

ICC celebrates February as Career Education Month

Staff Reports

Itawamba Community College is joining two-year institutions across the United States in commemorating February as Career Education Month.

WHAT IS CAREER EDUCATION

"Career education is a major part of the solution to such economic and workforce issues, including high school dropout rates, a weakened economy, global competitiveness and massive layoffs," said Dylan Baldwin, dean of Career Education at ICC. "Career education associate's degrees can pay \$10,000 more per year than those in other fields, sometimes even more than bachelor's degrees, while limiting student debt."

THE TOOLBELT GENERATION

Recent news reports indicate that those who now realize that immediate employment in the skilled trades and no student debt lead to promising jobs are referred to as "The Toolbelt Generation," Baldwin said. "Many are benefitting from the secure job track and high earnings potential these career education jobs now provide. Additionally, federal data shows that trade school students are more likely to be employed after school than their degree-seeking counterparts and much more likely to work in a job related to their study."

According to the latest figures available from the Association for Career and Technical Education, 21,897 postsecondary career education participants in Mississippi are developing technical, academic and employability skills and engaging in



Miguel Guerrero learns HVAC skills.

work-based experiences with industry partners. "These youth and adult learners enrolled in career education programs are more engaged, graduate high school at higher rates, earn industry-recognized credentials and have rewarding and family-sustaining careers," the ACTE noted. In addition, there were 22,717 postsecondary credentials earned.

Career education programs, such as advanced manufacturing; agriculture, food and beverage; distribution, logistics and forestry; construction and information technology fill skills gaps, particularly in Mississippi's key industries. Fifty-

seven percent of jobs in Mississippi require skills training, more education than high school, but less than a four-year degree, and only 50 percent of the state's workers are trained at this level, the ACTE report continued.

ICC'S PROGRAMS

Itawamba Community College's Career Education programs include Automotive, Business and Marketing Management, Commercial Truck Driving, Construction Management, Criminal Justice, Diesel Equipment, Early Childhood Education, Electrical, Forestry, Heating and Air Conditioning, Hospitality Management, Industrial Maintenance, Information Systems (Computer Networking and Programming options), Paralegal, Precision Machining, Robotics and Automation, Toyota AMT and Welding and Cutting.

Four are selective admission, which means that they have a limited number of openings each year and have specific entry-level admission requirements that must be met for being accepted. They are Electrical, Industrial Maintenance, Robotics and Automation and Welding. In addition, 17 pathways, or short-term courses, equip students for early entry into the workforce.

ICC Unity programs to celebrate Black History Month, Feb. 19

Staff Reports

Dr. Katterria Grice of Tupelo, athletic academic adviser at Itawamba Community College, will be the featured speaker for a Unity program in celebration of Black History Month, at 11:30 a.m., Feb. 19, at the Itawamba Community College Tupelo Campus in the Academic and Student Center, and at 6 p.m. in the W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center at the Fulton Campus.

A native of Waynesboro, Grice earned the associate's degree from Pearl River Commu-

nity College; both the bachelor's and doctoral degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi and the master's degree from the University of West Alabama.

Grice is also the founder of Women of Excellence, ICC's newest organization. It is dedicated to the empowerment and upliftment of minority women, equipping them with the tools to carry themselves professionally and prepare for the future. Under her leadership, the organ-

ization has grown and continues to expand, focusing on a culture of service, empowerment and community impact.

She is an active member of both the Tupelo Women's Club and King City Church in Tupelo.

Grice and her husband, Jarvey, are the parents of one son, Rylan, 4 months.

The programs, which are sponsored by ICC's Student Activities and Student Government Association are free and open to the public.



Dr. Katterria Grice

ICC...#Betterthanever

College
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPRING 2025

- Feb. 17** Presidents' Day holiday for students and employees
- Feb. 20** Summer 2025 and fall 2025 class schedule available
- Feb. 21** Last day to drop classes with a 'W' through excessive absences or withdrawal from classes for traditional first eight-week classes
- Feb. 24** First day of student advising for summer 2025 and fall 2015
- Feb. 26** Last day to drop classes with a 'W' through excessive absences or withdrawal from classes for eLearning first eight-week classes
- Feb. 28** Progress reports due for traditional full-term day/night and eLearning full-term classes
- Last day to register for participation in commencement
- Mar. 4** Last day to add traditional second eight-week classes
- Mar. 5-6** Final exams for traditional first eight-week classes
- Mar. 7** Grades due at noon for traditional first eight-week classes
- Mar. 10-13** Final exams for eLearning first eight-week classes
- Mar. 10-14** Spring Break for students and employees
- Mar. 17** First day of class for eLearning and traditional second eight-week classes
- Mar. 18** Last day to add eLearning and traditional second eight-week classes
- Mar. 21** Spring Preview Day (juniors)
- Mar. 24** Registration for currently-enrolled Honor College begins at 2 p.m., and Allied Health students at 3 p.m.
- Mar. 25** Registration for currently-enrolled sophomores who have completed 24 or more hours begins at 7:30 a.m.
- Mar. 27** Registration for currently-enrolled freshmen begins at 7:30 a.m.
- Apr. 2** Last day to drop classes with a 'W' through excessive absences or withdrawal from classes for eLearning full-term classes
- Apr. 9** Honors (24+ ACT) orientation
- Apr. 11** Orientation - Fulton Campus
- Apr. 14** First day of class for eLearning second four-week classes
First day of registration for readmission students and transfer students

**For more information
and updates
on the fall schedule, go to
www.iccms.edu**



Jessi Stevenson

**IGT Back...
and more**

MATHAIUS MALLARD
Chieftain Staff

Indians Got Talent is back as well as much more from ICC's Student Activities.

Indians Got Talent, or IGT, is a talent show based on the real-life America's Got Talent television show. It is open to all currently enrolled students at all three ICC locations, according to Ana Brooke Stephens, coordinator of Student Activities.

Indians Got Talent is scheduled for Wednesday, Apr. 2, at 7 p.m. in the W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center on the Fulton Campus. Students can sign up by sending virtual auditions to getinvolved@iccms.edu by Friday, Feb. 21 by noon.

Student Activities will also host the Unity Event in honor of Black History Month, Feb. 19. Stephens said that there will be two programs, the first at 11:30 a.m. at the Academic and Student Center on the Tupelo Campus, and the second will be the same day at 6 p.m. at the W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center on the Fulton Campus. Dr. Katterria Grice, ICC academic adviser, will be the speaker for both events, and the event is free and open to the community.

Stephens noted that Mr. and Miss ICC elections open online, Feb. 24, at 8 a.m. All students at all three locations are encouraged to vote.

Student Activities is also planning to have ICC's first-ever March Madness, Mar. 3. Students will have opportunities to win prizes by shooting basketballs during the event which will be outside the Student Activities Center on the Fulton Campus.

ALEA HUDSON
Chieftain Staff

The annual Student Awards of Distinction ceremony on April 28 at 6 p.m. in the W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center on the Fulton Campus will recognize the outstanding accomplishments of Itawamba Community College students.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will honor top scholars from various departments and divisions as well as the All-Mississippi Academic Transfer and Workforce Teams.

According to Dr. Michelle Clouse, vice president of Instructional Services, "The ceremony will celebrate not only the

**Stevenson
to represent ICC
as
William Winter
Scholar**

Staff Reports

Jessi Stevenson of Fulton, fine arts instructor, has been selected as Itawamba Community College's William Winter Scholar for 2025.

She will be among statewide recipients honored during opening and closing ceremonies at the 36th Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, March 27-29.

Stevenson currently teaches public speaking and theatre at ICC, where she has been a faculty member since 2006. Known for her creative approach to teaching in the communication classroom, Stevenson strives to incorporate weekly hands-on learning opportunities, such as pop-up speech assignments, board game days designed to enhance interpersonal engagement and yoga days focused on stress-relief and delivery techniques, all aimed at improving students' overall podium performance.

Stevenson has earned numerous recognitions, including the Lamp-lighter Award, NISOD Excellence Award, two-time Meritorious Achievement Award recipient, Humanities Teacher Award, Mississippi Communication Association Top Presenter Award, QEP Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award and multiple recognitions such as an athletics faculty awardee for volleyball and basketball. She has served as president of the Mississippi Faculty Association as well as local

(ICC) president and vice president. For five years, Stevenson directed ICC's short-term student abroad program, The Global Experience.

Her educational background includes the associate's degree from ICC, both bachelor's and master's degrees from Mississippi State University and graduate work from the University of North Alabama. Prior to joining the ICC family, she taught public speaking and communication courses at Beville State Community College.

A Bruce native, Stevenson and her husband, Chris, have two sons, Rourke and Riley. They are members of Orchard Fulton.

The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration is one of the state's most significant annual conferences devoted to literature, history, film and culture. It is cosponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, the city of Natchez, the Adams County Board of Supervisors, Visit Natchez, Mississippi Arts Commission, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Mississippi Humanities Council and the National Park Service. This year's theme is "Follow the Frenchman through Natchez: The Farewell Tour of Lafayette," celebrating the 200+ year of Gilbert du Mortier, the Marquis de Lafayette's farewell tour of the United States.

**Honors ceremony to celebrate
top students at ICC**



**ICC President Dr. Jay Allen
congratulates the recipient
of a student award of distinction in spring 2024.**

achievements of our top academic scholars, but also those recognized for their significant contributions to ICC. This includes the Hall of Fame inductees, Mr. and Miss ICC and other award winners who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to both their studies and the community."

The event provides an opportunity for the community to come together and celebrate the hard work and dedication of ICC's top students, Clouse said.

An afternoon ceremony will honor faculty and staff for special achievement as well as those who are retiring this year from Itawamba Community College.

**Enrollment Increase
from page one**

The many resources and opportunities available to students at the Fulton, Tupelo and Belden locations enhance overall student experience and help ICC students achieve success. From the first time a student arrives at an ICC location or begins one of our fully online

programs to the day they complete their degree or certification, ICC provides wraparound services throughout the entire process. It's

an exciting time to be at ICC, where we ensure that the BEST start here."

ICC...YOU belong here!

Meeting Room

CLUB NEWS & CALENDAR

PROFESSIONAL/SCHOLARLY

Alpha Delta Nu	alphadeltanu@iccms.edu
Educators Rising	educatorsrising@iccms.edu
Humanities Club	humanitiesclub@iccms.edu
ICC Art Club	artclub@iccms.edu
ICC Honors College	honors@iccms.edu
MOSA	mosa@iccms.edu
Nurses Christian Fellowship	ncf@iccms.edu
PEAK Club	peak@iccms.edu
Phi Theta Kappa	PTKFulton@iccms.edu
	PTKTupelo@iccms.edu
Sigma Kappa Delta	SKD@iccms.edu
Skills USA	skillsusa@iccms.edu
STEM Club	stemclub@iccms.edu
SOTA (Occupational Ther.)	sota@iccms.edu
The Business Council	council@iccms.edu
The Global Experience	travel@iccms.edu

COLLEGE-BASED

Archery Club	archery@iccms.edu
Bass Club	bassclub@iccms.edu
Chieftain (Newspaper)	chieftain@iccms.edu
Disc Golf Club	discgolf@iccms.edu
eSports Club	esports@iccms.edu
Fashion Tribe	fashiontribe@iccms.edu
Indian Delegation	delegate@iccms.edu
MANUP	manup@iccms.edu
Mirror (Yearbook)	mirror@iccms.edu
Orientation Leaders	orientation@iccms.edu
Student Activities Board	SAB@iccms.edu
Student Government Assn.	SGAFulton@iccms.edu
	SGATupelo@iccms.edu

FINE ARTS PERFORMING

All-American Band	band@iccms.edu
CenterStage	centerstage@iccms.edu
Choir and Chamber Singers	choir@iccms.edu
Color Guard	colorguard@iccms.edu
Concert Ensembles	band@iccms.edu
Film Club	filmclub@iccms.edu
Indianettes	indianettes@iccms.edu
Jazz Ensemble	jazz@iccms.edu
Pom Squad	pomsquad@iccms.edu
Steel Drum Band	band@iccms.edu
Theatre Productions	theatre@iccms.edu
Woodwind Ensembles	woodwinds@iccms.edu

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Baptist Student Union	bsu@iccms.edu
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	FCA@iccms.edu
Nurses Christian Fellowship	NCF@iccms.edu
Wesley Foundation	wesley@iccms.edu

**For more information
on ICC clubs
and organizations,
www.iccms.edu.**



**Happy.
Happy!**

Itawamba Community College's students celebrated last week with multiple Valentine's Day events, including Galentine's.

Professional Wrestling focus of Humanities presentation

Staff Reports

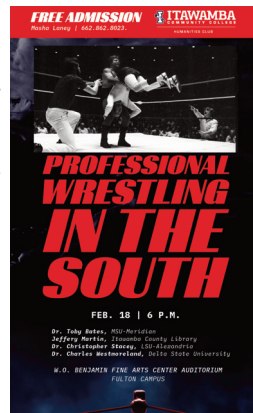
"Professional Wrestling in the South" will be the subject of a Humanities presentation at 6 p.m., Feb. 18, at the Itawamba Community College Fulton Campus in the W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center auditorium.

The public is invited to attend the event, which will feature a panel discussion by Dr. Chris Stacey, professor of history at Louisiana State University - Alexandria; Jeffrey Martin, manager of the Itawamba County Pratt Memorial Library; Dr. Chuck Westmoreland Jr., interim chair for the School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and associate professor of history at Delta State University; and Dr. Toby Bates, associate professor of history at Mississippi State University - Meridian.

Stacey, whose research interests include the history of professional wrestling and 1980s

cultural history, is the author of "Populism and Professional Wrestling in the Sunbelt South: From Rasslin' to Sports Entertainment."

Martin is a lifelong Mississippian and a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi. His first book, "Professional Wrestling in Mississippi: A History," was released by The History Press on June 5, 2023. It revisits everything from the carnival wrestling days of the late 1800s to the chiseled melodrama of modern wrestling. Readers learn about Billy Romanoff, the old school wrestler turned promoter, who made wrestling a weekly staple at the



Jackson City Auditorium; Jerry Lawler and Bill Dundee, who brought down the house on Friday nights at the Tupelo Sports Arena; and George and Gil Culkin, the father-and-son duo who split with "Cowboy" Bill Watts to create their own Mississippi territory, kickstarting the careers of Kamala, Terry Gordy, Michael Hayes and many other pivotal figures.

Westmoreland has researched and published on the intersection of sports, race and religion in the U.S. South.

Growing up in Tupelo, Bates was immersed in the world of Memphis area wrestling, which extended into the Tupelo area.

The event is sponsored by ICC's Humanities Club. Admission is free.

For more information, email Masha Laney, History instructor, at molaneyiccms.edu or call (662) 862-8023.

Important to be familiar with financial aid application process

GRANT EDGER
Chieftain Staff

For many students, financial aid is key to being able to attain a higher education after high school. There are different kinds of financial aid, said Terry Bland, ICC financial aid director, and each application process differs slightly. They could possibly change from year to year. Therefore, it is important to stay familiar with the steps necessary to earn as much financial aid as possible.

As far as federal aid goes, the process for applying has stayed consistent, Bland said. "For federal aid, you can only apply through the student.gov website, and each year (students) have to complete a FAFSA (Free Application for Student Aid)."

He added that both the student and a parent will need to acquire a Federal Student Aid IC through the

student.gov website at least 7 days before using it to file the FAFSA. Bland noted that this is a new requirement from the federal government to allow time for verifying every FSA ID with specific agencies such as Homeland Security and the Social Security Administration.

Students who have already filled out the FAFSA in the past and have a verified FSA ID can use that same FSA ID for filling out the FAFSA now or for future years," Bland said. With a completed FAFSA, students will have access to their Student Aid Index, which determines eligibility for various forms of financial aid, including the Federal Pell Grant.

While federal financial aid cannot be officially awarded to students until August, Bland noted that students are encouraged to apply as early as possible since starting the process early allows federal funds to

be allocated appropriately based on student need.

"Right now, the FAFSA for 25-26, which won't begin until August, is open, but (students) can go ahead and apply for it now, that way when we start loading everything into our system, we'll already have your information, and we'll already know what you're eligible for," Bland said.

Applying early also gives students a chance at limited funding that may not be available at the end of a given cycle.

"Certain funds we only get a limited amount of, such as the Supplemental Education Opportunity grant, which we only get about \$200,000 a year," Bland said. "It's kind of first-come, first serve."

ICC's Financial Aid offices are also capable of helping students through the process of applying," Bland continued. Also, a guide to applying for

financial aid can be found on ICC's official website, www.iccms.edu, along with other important financial aid information.

Bland noted that financial aid backed by the state of Mississippi works similarly in that it requires a yearly online application form be completed by any student seeking financial aid. The online application and eligibility requirements can be found at msfinancialaid.org.

He also added that county and ICC-specific scholarships differ from federal and state aid in that they do not require students to reapply every school year; however, ICC's federal aid office will check that the student still meets the scholarship requirements and then award the fundings before each semester. Students must apply for scholarships awarded by the ICC Foundation, Inc. every year.

getinvolved@iccms.edu

Want To Know More?

FULTON CAMPUS

Information on

Academic Honors.....	Admissions
Activities Calendar	V.P. of Student Services
Admissions/Records	Admissions
Advanced Placement	V.P. of Instructional Services
Athletics	Athletic Director
Band	Band Director
Books/Supplies	Bookstore
Career Planning	Adviser/Advising Center
Car Registration Decals	Campus Police
Change of Adviser/Major	Advising Center
Change in Curriculum	Adviser/Student Affairs
Counseling	Student Affairs
Counseling (Personal).....	V.P. of Student Services
Course Placement.....	V.P. of Instructional Services
Evaluation of Credits	Admissions
Examinations	Instructor
Faculty Office Hours	Instructor
Graduation Req.....	Admissions
Housing	Director of Housing
I.D. Cards	Library
Intramurals/Activities	Coor. of Student Activities
Library	Director of Libraries
Log-Ins/PINs	TIS Help Desk
Parking	Campus Police
Part-Time Jobs	Student Affairs
Placement Testing.....	Student Affairs
Publicity/Publications	Community Relations
Registration	Admissions
Schedule Changes	Adviser
Schedule Planning	Adviser
Scholarships	Financial Aid
Student Aid/Work Study	Financial Aid
Student Government	Coor. of Student Activities
Student Organizations.....	Sponsors
Summer School.....	Coor. of Student Activities
	V.P. of Instructional Services
Testing (Career).....	Career Center
Transcripts	Admissions
Tuition, Fees, Deferrals	Business office
Use of Campus Property	V.P. of Student Services
Veterans Affairs	Financial Aid

TUPELO CAMPUS

Admissions/Records	Student Affairs
Advanced Placement Credit ..	VP, Instructional Services
Books and Supplies	Bookstore
Career Planning.....	Adviser/Career Center
Car Registration/Decals	Campus Police
Counseling	Student Affairs
Evaluation of Credits.....	Admissions
I.D. Cards	Library
Job Placement.....	Career Center
Library	Library
Log-Ins/PINs	TIS Help Desk
Parking	Campus Police
Registration/Early-Reg	Student Affairs
Schedule Planning	Student Affairs
Scholarships	Financial Aid
Student Activities	Coor. of Student Activities
Student Aid.....	Financial Aid
Student Government	Coor. of Student Activities
Transcripts	Student Affairs
Tuition and Fees.....	Business office
Veterans Affairs	Financial Aid

BELDEN CENTER

Adult Ed./High School Equivalency	Audra Perry
Career Education.....	Dylan Baldwin
Continuing Education	Josh Gammill
WIOA.....	Brad Gates
Workforce.....	Barry Emison

**Contact information available
at www.iccms.edu
by clicking on the area of interest
or by searching
the college directory
at the same location.**

Nominate now for alum awards

Staff Reports

Nominations are being accepted through Apr. 1 for Itawamba Community College's Alumnus of the Year, Athletic Hall of Fame, Distinguished Service Award and Young Alumnus of the Year. Those selected will be honored during homecoming activities this fall at the Fulton Campus.

Two honorees are selected for Athletic Hall of Fame awards. Honored are former athletes, coaches or individuals who have excelled or made major contributions to intercollegiate athletics while attending or employed by ICC. They must have been out of school at least 10 years.

Both the Distinguished Service and Young Alumnus of the Year awards are relatively new.

Forms are available at www.iccms.edu/get-involved.

For more information, email Michael Upton, director of Advancement, at maupton@iccms.edu.



West Memphis artist and former Itawamba Community College instructor Greely Myatt installs his “Defying Gravity on an Airport Carpet in Watermelon Sugar” sculpture in ICC’s W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center gallery at the Fulton Campus with the assistance of art instructor Elizabeth Owen. The exhibit is on display through February 27. - Photo Credit: Shawn Whittington.

‘Flowers of Fulton’ on display in Fine Arts Gallery

Staff Reports

The work of West Memphis artist and former Itawamba Community College instructor Greely Myatt will be on display through Feb. 27 at the W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center Gallery at the Fulton Campus.

“Defying Gravity on an Airport Carpet in Watermelon Sugar” is an exhibition of sculptures made from various materials and using varying approaches - an exploration of intersecting narratives, where literature, music and the mundane converge to reveal my view/experience of the world, Myatt said. The works draw inspiration from the whimsical and surreal novels of Richard Brautigan, the poignant and tender lyrics of Jesse Winchester’s song, *Defying Gravity*, captures a yearning to escape, to transcend limitations and to embrace the weightlessness

of possibility with a shy humor.

Each piece is an invitation to pause and reflect, to consider how the ephemeral moments of our lives, much like a song lyric or a fleeting glance at a novel, leave indelible marks. The sculptures embody movement, change and the tension between rootedness and flight. By merging these disparate influences, the exhibition seeks to create a space where viewers can navigate their own internal landscapes, drawing connections between the personal and the universal, the obvious and the obscure, the poetic and the prosaic. Myatt noted, “Not only a tribute to its inspirations, the exhibition is also a testament to the power of art to connect, to inspire and to defy gravity, all with a wink and a nod.”

Myatt has a teaching history of 40 years and has shown work

everywhere from The Brooks Museum in Memphis to New York, Chicago and California, to the Netherlands, Beirut and Dubai. Born in Aberdeen, he attended Amory High School and he earned his bachelor’s degree from Delta State University and the master’s degree from The University of Memphis, where in 2020, he received the status of Professor Emeritus.

Myatt designed his installation as site specific to ICC’s gallery space. One of the show’s works, “Titanic,” was created when he was an instructor at ICC.

Gallery hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except when ICC is closed for holidays. Admission is free. For more information, contact Shawn Whittington at eswhittington@iccms.edu or (662) 862-8301.

ICC Phi Theta Kappa chapters induct new members

Staff Reports

Itawamba Community College’s Phi Theta Kappa chapters have inducted new members.

Those who have joined the Beta Tau Sigma chapter at the Tupelo Campus include Lorianne Lee of **Aberdeen**; Joshua Carter of **Baldwyn**; Leslie Curry, Abby Hood, both of **Blue Springs**; Taylor Chapman of **Booneville**; Taylor Fletcher of **Caledonia**; Caden Long of **Carrollton**; Madison Anderson, Gavin Dyer, both of **Ecrú**; Drake Moore of **Fulton**; Corey Oaks of **Golden**; Daniel Bradley of **Guntown**; Sara Casados, Amber Crider, both of **Houston**; Shumya Thornton of **Nettleton**; Amie Anderson, Jared Martin, Christiana Rowan, all of **New Albany**; Mary Hays of **Okolona**; Noah Wood of **Plantersville**; Hunter Bost, Brooklyn Bunch, Bentley Thomas, Landen Thompson, all of **Pontotoc**; Avery Hughes of **Potts Camp**; Kasharia Cunningham of **Prairie**; Madison Richardson, Maple Wilson, Manahel Algamal, Devereaux Bailey, Milah Boone, Troy Clements, Allyson Cummings, Giselle Hernandez, Isabella Hodnett, Alana Palmer, Ashlyn Powell, Kaitlyn Slagle, Hallie Tenhet, Marcela Tiscareno, all of **Tupelo**.

Those who have joined the Upsilon Sigma chapter at the Fulton Campus are Sabrina Ford, Sierra Lochala, Ashlei Shelton, all of **Ab-**

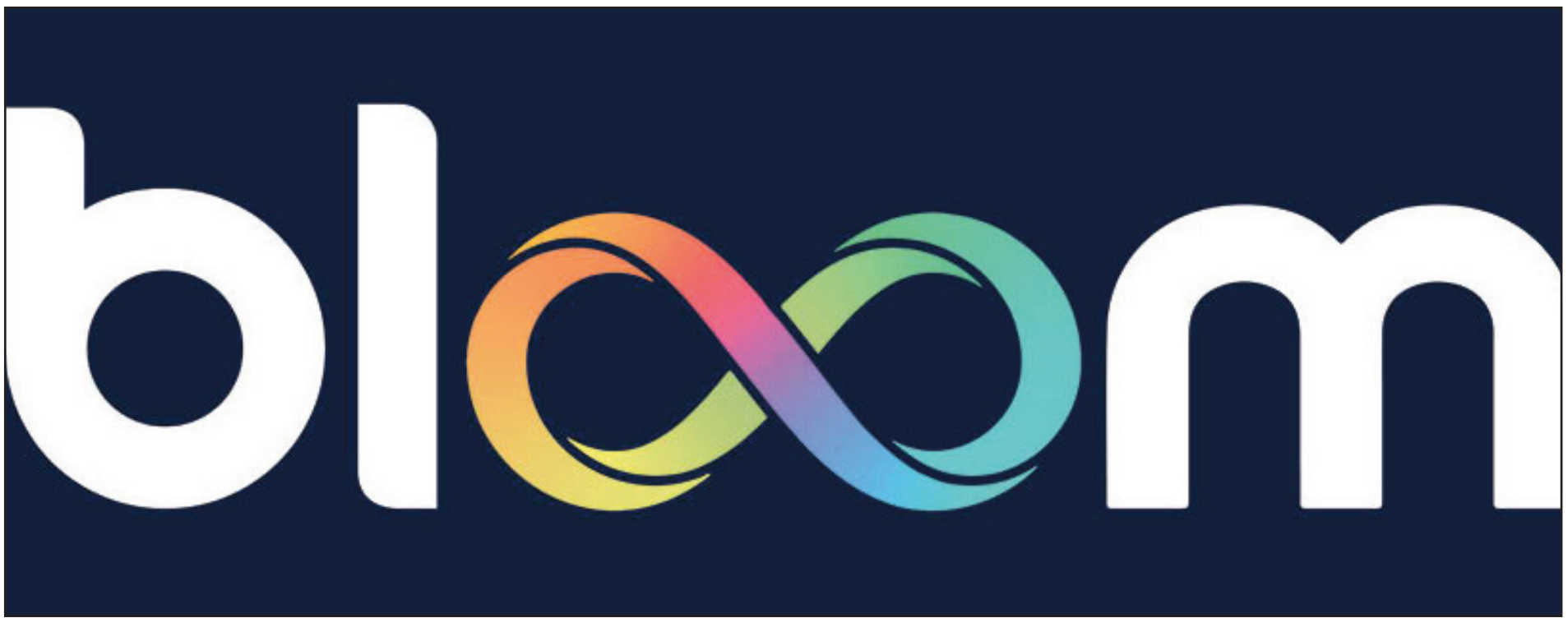


PHI THETA KAPPA
HONOR SOCIETY

erdeen; Maylee Hollis of **Ackerman**; Jordan Allred, Anjela Beato, Jessie McHenry, Barker O’Brian, Greyson Wardlow, Madison Whitt, all of **Amory**; Matthew McCarley of **Athens, Ala.**; Jayla Hood, Sydney Young, both of **Baldwyn**; Joshua Delacoudray of **Belden**; Miles Beasley of **Blue Springs**; William Logan, Lily Tutor, both of **Bruce**; April Lopez of Ecrú; Laken Brown, Anna Daher, Jordan Guntharp, Ava Lentz, Joan Ramis Pascual, Cameron Robinson, Lucia Rubio, all of **Fulton**; Michael Hester of Golden; Weston Kingsley, Margaret Young, both of **Guntown**; John Lucas of **Hamilton**; Arizona Black of **Houlka**; Morgan Heair of **Houston**; D’Nayah Williams of **Kosciusko**; Macy Buse, Bailey Coker, Rebecca Devaughn, Lydia Prochaska, Lincoln Summers, Brooke Wood, all of **Mantachie**; Julia Owens, Steven Quiroz, both of **Mooreville**; Kylee King, Brodie Lindsey, both of **Nettleton**; James Paden, Tymera Parks, both of **Okolona**;

Rogers Lindsay of **Oxford**; Timothy Faulkner of **Phil Campbell, Ala.**; Winston Housley, Blake Peters, both of **Plantersville**; Kaitlyn Brown, David Gaspar-Hernandez, Eli Holloway, Ella Huey, all of **Pontotoc**; Allye Sewell of **Randolph**; Jaycee Vinson of **Red Bay, Ala.**; Earline Brown, Paige Greenwood, Taylor Johnson, Callie Keokominh, Rajit Nagra, all of **Saltillo**; Samira Gates of **Shannon**; Sydney Calhoun, Anna Crenshaw, Sara Davis, Bobby Herron, Madeline Luker, Audrey Summerford, Madalynne Swan, all of **Smithville**; Kensley Woolbright of **Steens**; Jaden Boyd, Garrett Enis, Sydney Ladd, Kiara Marshall, Brantley Martin, Evan McCarthy, Crissen McCoy, Connor O’Daniel, Brick Thomas, Makenzie Williamson, all of **Tupelo**; Michael Cruz of **Vardaman**; and Kory Leonard of **West Point**.

Phi Theta Kappa is an international honor society for the two-year college. Its hallmarks are leadership, scholarship, fellowship and service. Members are afforded opportunities for personal and professional growth and to provide service to the community and society at large. Advisers are Makaela Salmon of Tupelo, Riley Morgan of Guntown and Anna Catherine Daher of Fulton, all at the Fulton Campus; and Jenny Bowers of Tupelo and Allyson Cummings of Pontotoc, both at the Tupelo Campus.



ICC initiates innovative Bloom program

Staff Reports

With the beginning of the 2025 spring semester, Itawamba Community College has initiated an innovative Bloom program, which is for neurodivergent students who need extra support although they either have a high school diploma or certificate or looking to gain work credentials through career education. Areas of assistance include, but are not limited to, social skills lessons, extra tutoring help with navigating college life and all Bloom support opportunities.

Andrea Hardin of Corinth

has been employed as the program's coordinator. The Bloom Academy, which consists of a four-day orientation and customized four-semester program, focuses on developing essential life, academic and career readiness skills. Hardin said that each student will be evaluated and transitioned to a high school equivalency path or provided enhanced assistance with daily life skills. "We will meet the students where they are and help them meet their full potential." One of the goals for the program, Hardin said, is to



Andrea Hardin
create employment-ready individuals who take great

pride in their jobs/careers. "We are anticipating partnerships with area companies to ensure we are meeting their needs for future employees as well as making a significant difference in the lives and futures of our Bloom program participants." She is currently scheduling appointments with area employers to learn about the specific needs of transitioning students and how ICC can support these students more effectively. The program's first cohorts will be on the Tupelo Campus.

Hardin earned the associate's degree from Northeast Mississippi Community College and both the bachelor's and master's degrees (school counseling) from Freed-Hardeman University. She taught seventh-ninth grade technical English and special education and has served as a high school counselor and a positive behavior specialist. She is a member of the Foote Street Church of Christ in Corinth. Hardin has four children and one grandchild. For more information about Bloom, visit www.iccms.edu/bloom.

ICC showcases Middle College partnership with TPSD

Staff Reports

An Insight Luncheon, Dec. 16, at Itawamba Community College's Belden Center showcased and highlighted its partnership with Tupelo High School and the success of its Middle College as well as recognized individuals who have been instrumental in both implementing and continuing its significant journey. "Today we gather to celebrate an incredible partnership and program that is making a meaningful impact in our community," said ICC President Dr. Jay Allen. "We are honored to host many distinguished guests today, including educators, administrators, community leaders and supporters who share our vision for empowering students and shaping the future. Your presence here speaks volumes about your commitment to education and your desire to invest in the success of our young people." Among those Allen recognized was Stewart McMillen, who before she joined the CREATE Foundation staff, assisted with the original coordination of Middle College in her role with the Tupelo Public Schools. During the luncheon, attendees heard inspirational stories of success, learned about the program's

achievements and witnessed firsthand the transformative impact the program has had on the students, their families and communities. It also helped provide a better understanding of its value and the importance for continued support. "The Middle College program is a powerful example of what can happen when we come together with a shared vision for empowering our young people," according to Allyson Cummings, speech instructor, who served as emcee for the program. "As an instructor for Middle College students who take public speaking at ICC, I can personally attest to the impact of this program. Though the Middle College program, students are gaining an incredible head start on their educational and career journeys, blending high school and college-level opportunities, all while building the skills and confidence to succeed in today's world." Tupelo High School and Middle College counselor Brittany Terrell, who with ICC dean of Advising and the Tupelo Campus Mande Miller, has been involved in the journey since its inception. Her question-and-answer panel discussion with current participants yielded insight regarding student expectations and



Brittany Terrill, THS and Middle School counselor, moderates a question-and-answer session with current Middle School participants during a Dec. 16 luncheon at ICC's Belden Center. experiences, including student involvement, opportunities to make friends and memories and enhanced study to prepare for the rigor of the college classroom. A student-friendly schedule at ICC enables participants to have work and study flexibility, according to multiple members of the panel. "I am so proud of the success these students have shown," Terrell said previously. "I have witnessed students come out of their shell and find confidence in their academic abilities. Not only have they blossomed academically, but they are heavily involved with ICC extracurriculars, clubs and organizations."- *See Middle College, page nine.*

The BEST start here!!

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 24

PTK-Fulton Meeting
John S. Crubaugh Education Center -
Fulton - 12:15 p.m.
Mr. and Miss ICC Elections
All Day - Online

FEBRUARY 25

Most Beautiful Pageant
W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center
Fulton - 6 p.m.
Mr. and Miss ICC (Runoffs if needed)
All Day - Online

FEBRUARY 26

Indians Got Talent Contestant Meeting
TBA

FEBRUARY 27

Career Fair: Construction Management
and Forestry
David C. Cole Student Services Building
Fulton - 9:30 a.m.-noon

MARCH 3

March Madness with Student Activities
TBA
Humanities Club - Dr. Seuss Week
W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center
Fulton - All Day

MARCH 5

Career Center
LinkedIn 101: Networking Like A Pro
Library
Fulton - 2:30 p.m.

MARCH 18

STEM Club Meeting: Soft Skills Workshop
Interview Tips
Natural Science Building STEM Lounge
Fulton - 2:15 p.m.

MARCH 19

PTK-Tupelo Chapter Meeting
Student Support Center 123G - Tupelo
12:15 p.m.

MARCH 24

Wellness Week

MARCH 27, 28

"A Midsummer Night's Dream"
Fulton - W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center
Times vary

MARCH 31

PTK-Fulton Chapter Meeting
John S. Crubaugh Education Building 102
12:15 p.m.

APRIL 1

ICC Small Ensembles Concert
Fulton - W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts
Center Auditorium
7 p.m.

APRIL 8

ICC Choir and Chamber Concert
Fulton - W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts
Center Auditorium
7 p.m.

APRIL 9

PTK-Tupelo Chapter Meeting
Student Support Center
Presentation Room
12:15 p.m.
Humanities Club Meeting
Career Spotlight Series
Fulton - Boggs Humanities Building
12:15 p.m.

APRIL 17

ICC Concert Bands Spring Performance
Fulton - W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center
7 p.m.

APRIL 18/21

Good Friday and Good Monday
Holidays for Students/Employees

For more information
www.iccms.edu
Activities Calendar

Around and About ICC



*Great
start
to the
spring
semester!*

*From top, Arbor
Day tree planting,
Open Mic night,
learning about
Mississippi INBRE,
Megan Eidt's hu-
manities presenta-
tion, intramural
volleyball and the
Orientation Lead-
ers dinner with
President Allen.*



ICC at its BEST!

FYI

MAKE A NOTE OF IT

JUST A REMINDER...

Review lockdown procedures

ICC's faculty, staff and students are urged to re-view campus lockdown procedures.

"The procedures are meant to be very simple because at the point of a lockdown, the major concern is the safety of all of the individuals in the campus community," said Dr. Brad Boggs, vice president of student services.

Notifications will be communicated via ICC ALERT, email and the Emergency Information Web page.

Upon notification of campus lockdown, everyone must react immediately.

The procedures include

- 1) Lock all doors and windows.
- 2) Close all blinds.
- 3) Turn off lights.
- 4) Use room furnishings to barricade doors and as protection.
- 5) Everyone should sit on the floor, away from doors and windows.
- 6) Make no noise.
- 7) Remain in lockdown until it is cleared with a notice via ICC ALERT or the police/administrator gives te ALL CLEAR code.

In addition, these are procedures in the event of severe weather conditions or evacuation.

Individuals should check ICC's website, www.iccms.edu, for information. It's located under Campus Safety on the home page.

Sign up for ICC ALERT

ICC provides a mass notification system called ICC ALERT.

Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to participate in the free service.



ICC ALERT has been utilized for inclement weather situations when classes and offices were closed due to snow and icing conditions and when storms threatened

the area.

To sign up to receive emergency messages through ICC ALERT: 1) Log on to the myTribe portal using your name and password; 2) Click ICC ALERT system in the link section on the bottom right; 3) Log in with your same username and password as myTribe to add/update your information.

For assistance with technical issues, contact the TIS Help Desk at (662) 862-8295 or via email at helpdesk@iccms.edu.

Litter-free

Everyone is reminded to use trash receptacles for litter. It's up to all of us to show our pride by ensuring that all three locations are litter-free.

No noise

Unnecessary noise is banned at Itawamba Community College, including loud music, yelling and screaming.

Students who are found guilty of noise violations will be fined, and the fine will double with each successive violation.

Campus Police

ICC-Belden...662.687.2752
ICC-Fulton...662.687.2750
ICC-Tupelo...662.687.2751

For more information
about ICC emergency
procedures...
www.iccms.edu



Students in Jeff Reeder's (right) Commercial Truck Driving class at the ICC Tupelo Campus, including Lupe Chavez use a simulator to learn the basics.

Registration underway for ICC CTD class

Staff Reports

Registration is underway for a Commercial Truck Driving program at the Itawamba Community College Tupelo Campus.

The career pathway program prepares individuals to drive Class A semi-trucks and other commercial vehicles. It includes instruction in operating diesel-powered vehicles, loading and unloading cargo, reporting delays or acci-

dents on the road, verifying loads against shipping records and keeping necessary records. According to ICC Continuing Education Director Josh Gam-mill, "It is designed to give the future driver a complete and thorough knowledge of logbooks, trip records and the motor carrier safety regulations of the United States Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Ad-

ministration."

Classes meet Monday through Friday from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. for four weeks at the ICC Tupelo Campus (2176 So. Eason Blvd.).

Enrollment requirements include U.S. citizen or Puerto Rico valid driver's license; copy of good driving record; acceptable driving record with no more than two speeding tickets in the previous three years and no DUIs or DWUIs in

the previous four years; pass DOT physical and drug screening within 30 days of class; and pass class A CDL Learner's Permit exam.

Tuition assistance and scholarships are available for qualified applicants. Successful completers of the program receive a certificate of completion and CDL License.

For more information, email pathways@iccms.edu or call (662) 407-1537.

Sign up TODAY to participate in commencement

KENNA GRANT
Chieftain Staff

Commencement is a ceremony for students who are completing their degrees at ICC from December 2024 to August 2025, according to Rachel Steele, director of Admissions/Registrar.

They will participate in one of three ceremonies scheduled for May 16 in the Davis Event Center at the Fulton Campus.

According to Steele, exact times and dates are to be determined. However, graduates can register through myTribe to participate until the March 7 deadline.

While not required, students are encouraged to attend and participate in the ceremony, Steele said.

The advantages of participation include academic recogni-

tion, personal congratulations from ICC President Dr. Jay Allen, celebration with other graduates and an opportunity to participate in the 'largest and most exciting event of the year,' Steele said.

For more information regarding graduation and commencement, students should contact Steele at resteele@iccms.edu.

Middle College from page seven

Tupelo Public School Superintendent R. Rob Picou also expressed appreciation for the Middle College partnership with ICC and noted the importance of the opportunity that the innovative program provides in today's educational system. "Education is an industry," he said. "We are equipping our students with the skills to compete in a highly competitive workforce in a global, highly technical environment." He noted that Middle College is one of five career academies within the Tupelo Public School District, calling the initiative one that has the greatest possible impact and a positive innovation. Picou called Middle College the tip of the iceberg and "what could be the most promising innovation to come along in education in our lifetime. It is a fusion between K-12, community college and industry to provide employees that will elevate the state of Missis-

sippi and our communities to their fullest potential."

More than 70 students have successfully participated in Middle College since its creation in 2019 with a 81 percent completion rate, Allen said. "What a testament to the many individuals and services that work daily to help these students thrive. Often this support starts at home. Parents and guardians play a role in helping Middle College students navigate this transition to higher education." Among those are Liz Autry, who shared a parent's perspective as the mother of two participants. Students who are involved in the Middle College journey are not alone, she said. In telling her story, she encouraged students to consider participating. "Sometimes students who have potential need a change of scenery (from high school)."

Through the innovative Middle College, students can simul-

taneously earn their high school diploma and 60 plus hours of college credit. Students are placed in a more supportive and transitional environment that bridges the gap to higher education. With the support of ICC and THS personnel, students learn soft skills such as communicating with instructors, time management skills ad responsibility, all imperative for overall preparedness at the university level. Prior to their junior year, THS students must have a 3.0 grade point average or higher, ACT math score of 19 and English score of 17.

Attending were Tupelo community and industry leaders, state elected officials/leaders, local superintendents of education, current THS Middle College students and representatives from ICC and the Tupelo Public School District.

ICC...The BEST!



Members of the cast and crew of ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream include from left, Paula Garcia, Cheridy Brown, Tierney Johnson, Kylie Long, Emily Hudson, Kilee Webster; back, Jalynn Black, Stephanie Riddle, Arabella Castleman and Eli Owens. Not pictured, Khali Dilworth, Buddy Ferguson, Zoey Tether and Kassadra Ramirez.



Itawamba Community College is an open admission, comprehensive, publicly supported two-year institution primarily serving Chickasaw, Itawamba, Lee, Monroe and Pontotoc counties, while also being responsive to the instructional and economic development needs of the region.

Itawamba Community College fulfills its mission through 1) College-parallel, technical and career programs to prepare students to transfer or enter the workforce; 2) Continuing education and workforce pathways for individuals striving for professional growth or personal enrichment; 3) Strategic partnerships to provide student opportunities, meet business and industry needs and promote economic development; 4) Adult education programs committed to increasing the literacy level of the adult population, providing self-improvement opportunities, workforce readiness and/or high school equivalency; 5) Resources, including financial, physical and technological to advance educational purpose as well as traditional and online instructional services, student support services and business management; 6) Recruitment and employment of qualified personnel as well as provide ongoing opportunities for leadership growth and success in educational, career and personal goals.

Candidates for admission to academic and career education programs may be admitted by diploma - students are required to present an official transcript from a high school accredited by the appropriate state or regional accreditation association; by completing the appropriate number of Carnegie units; by successfully completing an acceptable high school equivalency test - students are required to have an official copy of the high school equivalency transcript mailed to the Director of Admissions; by advanced standing (college transfer students). Students graduating without a regular diploma (Occupational Diploma or Special Education Diploma) must successfully complete an acceptable high school equivalency test or qualify under a Mississippi Ability to Benefit State Process in order to be eligible for admission to Itawamba Community College. Some career education programs may have selective criteria for admission.

Itawamba Community College is an equal opportunity institution. The College strictly prohibits discrimination in its educational programs and activities, employment practices and admissions processes on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, ethnicity, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran or other status protected by applicable law. For more information, contact the Vice President of Student Services, 602 West Hill Street, Fulton, MS 38843, 662.862.8271 or email TitleIXCoordinator@iccms.edu.

In compliance with Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Itawamba Community College makes available its curricular and extracurricular programs and its facilities to every qualified person regardless of race, sex, color, creed, national origin or disability.

Itawamba Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Community Colleges to award associate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404.670.4500 for questions about the accreditation of Itawamba Community College.

www.iccms.edu
662.862.8000

Apply NOW for health sciences

Staff Reports

Applications are currently being accepted for 11 health science programs, which begin in August at Itawamba Community College.

They include Associate Degree Nursing, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, EMS Paramedic, Health Information Technology, Practical Nursing (August class), Occupational Therapy Assistant Technology, Physical Therapist Assistant Technology, Public Health Technology, Radiologic Technology, Respiratory Care Technology and Surgical Technology.

The deadline to apply is May 1.

For more information about program requirements, access ICC’s website at www.iccms.edu or call (662) 620-5239.



SHARLEE SHUMPERT Chieftain Staff

Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” will be coming to ICC’s W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center with a groovy twist!

The production, which will retell Shakespeare’s classic story with a 1970s flair, is led by ICC’s Dr. Laurie McBride, theatre instructor. Show dates are Mar. 27-28 with dinner and play only options. Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by the production at 7:30 p.m.

The final day to purchase dinner theatre meal and show combos is Mar. 13. They are available electronically through the QR code located on the play’s posters or at www.iccms.edu/theatre. For those interested in buying tickets to the show but not the

meal, show-only tickets will be for sale at the door. Adult tickets are \$10, and student tickets, \$5.

CAST AND CREW

The cast and crew include Jalynn Black (Snout/Egeus/Lead Fairy); Cheridy Brown (Flute/Fairy)l Arabella Castleman (Hippolyta/Titania); Khali Dilworth (Bottom/Helena); Tierney Johnson (Hermia)l Kylie Long (Quince); William Owens (Demetrius/Oberon); Stephanie Riddle (Snug/Fairy)l Kilee Webster (Robin/Philostrate); Lela Waites (Lysander)l Buddy Ferguson (Theseus); Emily Hudson (Starveling/stage manager); Zoey Tether (sound); Olivia Youngblood (publicity); Paula Elaine Garcia (props); and Kassandra Ramirez (lights).

ABOUT THE SHOW

McBride said that she has been wanting to tackle “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” since she came to ICC. The play deals with runaway lovers who get mixed-up thanks to some magical potions. She said that she chose the 1070s theme because “I thought it would be fun! But I thought, too, that the youth back then were rebellious.” She said that she is excited to have new people to work with. Those who attend can expect an abridged version of the play with a 90-minute runtime as well as disco lights, 1970s music and even light sabers.

For additional information, email McBride at lsmbride@iccms.edu

What is ADHD? from page two

This explains why many report feeling “prickly” or as if they are about to “jump out of (their) skin,” and need to fidget and move their body!

This is why nontraditional seating such as a balancing ball may be helpful in the classroom. They may have an aversion to certain textures and tastes and may be extremely picky, eating only a few foods over and over, because they are considered “supertasters.” So, when your friend with ADHD says that vegetables taste bitter, bananas cause their mouth to tingle and mashed potatoes initiate their gag reflex, they aren’t ‘just being dramatic!’ It’s more likely that they would rather not have the extra attention that these traits cause.

Additionally, those with ADHD may be labeled as ‘lazy’ or ‘dumb.’ They experience difficulty focusing on tasks and engaging in activities that require focus and organization such as cleaning or writing lengthy papers. These chal-

lenges result in procrastination, missing or late assignments and reading comprehension problems.

These features may cause them to feel like a mortal failure and even spiral into depression and anxiety. You may ask, “But how can they spend hours on end gaming?” This is because activities with immediate rewards built in, such as gaming, satisfy their brain’s need for dopamine, known as the reward chemical.

So, how can we support a person with ADHD and how can they support themselves? With the understanding that ADHD is an internal problem (self-regulation), an individual needs to control what is external (environment). Scheduling is a MUST! Do not wait until you “feel like it.” Motivation is a challenge due to dopamine deficiency found in those with ADHD. Therefore, maintaining a schedule and working within a positive reward system is critical for productivity.

Making lists, checking off tasks and working in small, automatic rewards when a task is completed can be helpful.

Finally, knowledge is power. Understanding a few key elements of this common disorder can result in significant gains for a person troubled by the challenges of ADHD, whether you are struggling or support someone who is.

You can educate yourself by viewing Dr. Russell Barkley’s YouTube videos and lectures which are easily accessed on any connective device.

Additionally, many publications on ADHD can be checked out from ICC’s library through the Hoopla app. One such title that may be particularly helpful is “The Adult ADHD and Anxiety Workbook” by Dr. J. Russell Ramsey, New Harbinger Publications.

If you have questions or would like to talk to someone more about the symptoms and management of ADHD, email personalcounseling@iccms.edu.

#thebeststarthere





Laney Howell, center, was selected as ICC’s Most Beautiful 2024. Alternates include Nealee Turner, Anna Beth Brown, Reese Griffith and Alivia Tipton.

40+ contestants vie for 2025 Most Beautiful title

Staff Reports

More than 40 contestants will compete for the title of Itawamba Community College’s Most Beautiful 2025, Feb. 25, at 6 p.m. at the W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center auditorium on the Fulton Campus.

They include Lillian Gallop, Bri’yan Riddle, Stephanie Riddle, Addison Williams, all of **Aberdeen**; Emma Wright of **Amory**; Amelia Tooley of **Belmont**; Brandi De-

Loach of **Caledonia**; Allie Kirkland of **Corinth**; Natalie Nix of **Florence, Ala.**; Chloe Digby, Lauren South, both of **Fulton**; Alivia Harris of **Golden**; Katlyn Strickland of **Greenwood Springs**; Laney Elise Harrington, Elizabeth Honnoll, Holly Nethery, all of **Hamilton**; Alyssa Evans of **Holcomb**; India Pittman of **Houston**; Ty’Kiaya Kern of **Kosciusko**; Brianna Adkins, Emma Nichols, both of **Mantachie**;

E’lissa Texada of **Mooreville**; Isabella Childers of **Myrtle**; Hallie Benson, Olivia Foster, both of **Nettleton**; Emma Hill, Alea Hudson, both of **New Albany**; Isabella Moore of **Olive Branch**; Madelyn Ahmed, Kylee Smith, both of **Oxford**; Brianna Marino of **Pearl**; Zoey Britt of **Plantersville**; Anna Beth Gray, Jaycee Vinson, both of **Red Bay, Ala.**; Emma Worsham, Susana Worsham, both of **Saltillo**;

Madi Luker of **Smithville**; Madelyn Davis of **Stonewall**; Chloe Caver, Jasmier Coleman, Emily Rushing, Shelby Tigner, all of **Tupelo** and Treviana Harris of **West Point**.

Tickets, which are \$10 each, are on sale at www.iccms.edu/tickets.

The event is sponsored by the ICC Global Experience.

For more information, email travel@iccms.edu.



Itawamba Community College’s Health Science students participate in Code Blue and Red at the Tupelo Campus in 2024. - File photo

Code Blue/Red set for Feb. 21

Staff Reports

Itawamba Community College’s Health Sciences Division will host a Code Blue and Red event from 8:30 a.m.-noon, Feb. 21, in the Health Science Education Center at the Tupelo Campus.

Students from area high schools will be on campus in two shifts beginning at 8:15 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.) to participate in three simulated scenarios that highlight each of ICC’s 11 Health Science programs, said Michael Holloway, director of Recruitment and Orientation. A North Mississippi Medical Center ambulance will arrive, and students will see first-hand the need for and the role healthcare professionals play in the process. “It will be an impactful program,” Holloway said. “Our hope is that these students see the ‘real-life’ expertise used by the graduates of ICC’s programs.”

Participating programs include students and faculty from Associate Degree Nursing, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Emergency Medical Sciences, Health Information, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Physical Therapist Assistant, Practical Nursing, Public Health Technology, Radiologic Technology, Respiratory Care Technology and Surgical Technology.

Dean of Health Science Instruction Tonya Vaughn said that this event will be an exceptional interprofessional education opportunity. “IPE is a new emphasis area in healthcare education. The goal in these efforts is to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes that result in interprofessional team behaviors and competence. The end result will be to foster collaboration and appreciation for the various healthcare roles to improve the quality of care.”

The event is closed to the public.

Film Club schedules spring events

SHELBY FRANKS
Chieftain Staff

ICC Films is gearing up for another creative semester at ICC, according to sponsor Morgan Cutturini. “There are many events and many ways for students at all ICC locations to become involved.

“Students can get involved in our class film and see what it’s like on set or offer their skills if they have worked on a film set before,” Cutturini said. No experience is necessary to become

involved.

The Film Club’s class is titled “Red Rehearsal,” in which theatre students who are working on upcoming auditions for a play when strange events begin to take place on the stage. “Surviving the night of rehearsal takes center stage,” Cutturini said.

Other events on the schedule in the upcoming months include Film Club meetings, an outdoor movie night, Mar. 5, from 7-9 p.m. and a film screening on

Apr. 15 at 6 p.m.

Any student can join the Film Club. There is also a film class that meets from 12:35 to 1:50 p.m. on Tuesdays on the Fulton Campus or one that meets at the same time on Mondays at the Tupelo Campus.

Students who have questions can email advisers Cutturini at mcutturini@iccms.edu or Keith Morris at jkmorris@iccms.edu for further information.

ICC Athletics on the Move

CAMPUS SPORTS

CHIEFTAIN/Page 12.....February 17, 2025



Andy Kirk Field ICC honors exemplary softball coach

Staff Reports

Itawamba Community College dedicated its newly-renovated softball field in honor of former head coach Andy Kirk, whose remarkable career elevated the program to national prominence during a special Feb. 4 ceremony at the Fulton Campus.

Known for his dedication, leadership and incomparable success, Kirk transformed the softball program into a national powerhouse.

In 2022, his team earned the first-ever NJCAA No. 1 ranking in the program's history, solidifying its status among the nation's elite. A year earlier, the Indians captured the 2021 MACCC regular season championship with a dominant 25-3 conference record. The Indians won the 2019 MACJC Tournament Championship, finished runner up in the NJCAA Region 23 Tournament and earned a seventh-place finish at the NJCAA National Tournament, further showcasing his ability to succeed at the highest levels of competition.



Former ICC head softball Coach Andy Kirk throws out the first pitch on the field that was dedicated in his honor, Feb. 4.

Kirk's teams consistently set a standard of excellence, achieving eight straight 30-plus-win seasons (2012-19) before COVID disrupted the 2020 softball season. He finished his final two seasons with 30-plus wins (21-22). During his tenure, ICC produced 13 NJCAA and NFCA All-Americans

along with 23 NJCAA and NFCA All-Region selections. They also won the MACJC North Division Championship four-straight seasons (2012-15) before the league changed to the statewide conference format.

On the field, Kirk's teams regularly earned recognition for their academic success, ranking among the top 10 in team GPAs nationally, highlighting his commitment to fostering well-rounded student-athletes.

Throughout his career, Kirk has been recognized for his exceptional contributions to the sport.

He has been named MACJC/MACCC Softball Coach of the Year three times (2018, 19, 21), including a 376-130 mark at ICC, is a testament to his sustained success. Under his leadership, ICC achieved five top-10 NJCAA national rankings and made 10 postseason appearances - only missing the 2020 postseason when COVID shut down the season.

Signing Day ICC football adds 29 to '25 roster

Staff Reports

Itawamba Community College signed one of the largest recruiting classes in program history, adding 29 players to its 2025 roster.

"Today was a big day for our program," head coach Travis Macon said. "We wanted champions - players who have competed in and won state championships - and that's exactly what we signed."

Among the 29 signees, eight defensive players were selected for the Bernard Blackwell All-Star Classic.

"We lost a lot of production on defense from last season," defensive coordinator Justin Lucas said. "We focused on signing players who competed in the Bernard Blackwell Classic and earned all-state honors. We brought in some really talented kids."

Macon said the program prioritized size, strength and speed in the recruiting process.

"We checked all the boxes we set for the class," he said. "I'm really proud of our coaching staff for their

hard work. I believe we have a strong group of players who can build on last season's success."

The Indians will begin a limited number of spring practices that will conclude with the annual Chop Day Spring Game, Apr. 24. ICC will open the 2025 season at home, Aug. 28, against Hinds.

The signing day class includes:

- James Carr**, Defensive Line, North Panola;
- Jamarques Cathey**, Defensive Back, Senatobia;
- Quantarrius Dawson**, Linebacker, West Point;
- Jaiden Dilworth**, Defensive Back, Shannon;
- Allen Dobbs**, Linebacker, Amory;
- Sam'travenous Echols**, Defensive Line, Senatobia;
- Micah Fairbee**, Defensive Line, North Panola;
- Chanse Funchess**, athlete, Simpson Academy;
- Keuntre Gardner**, Wide Receiver, Clarksdale;
- Shun Jenkins**, Linebacker, Shannon;
- Dy'Lan Johnson**, Defensive Back, Baldwyn;
- Silas Jones**, Defensive Line, Okolona;

- Seth Kidd**, Defensive Line, Vigor (Ala.);
- Rowan Lovorn**, Punter, Oxford;
- Brian Macon**, Wide Receiver, Itawamba;
- Nickulas Mays**, Linebacker, Biggersville;
- Tahj McBride**, Defensive Back, Nettleton;
- Mac McGee**, Tight End, West Point;
- Sumarion McMillian**, Offensive Line, Aberdeen;
- Marcus Mukeba**, Defensive Back, West Point;
- Andrew Owens**, Defensive Line, Shannon;
- Nikolas Owens**, Defensive Line, Shannon;
- Jarquez Perry**, Linebacker, Grenada;
- Emmanuel Randle**, Running Back, Amory;
- Landon Richardson**, Defensive Back, Senatobia;
- Demetreus Ross Jr.**, Defensive Line, Grenada;
- Camdyn Selmon**, Offensive Line, Ripley;
- Bryson Thomas**, Linebacker, Senatobia; and
- Darian Wells**, athlete, Noxubee County.

#RollTribe

Tribe Talk

BILLY MILLENDER
Chieftain Sports

The NCAA's new eligibility rule, which counts the two years spent at a two-year junior college (JUCO) against an athlete's total eligibility at a four-year institution, is shaking up the world of community college sports.

Historically, athletes who attended JUCOs could use those two years to develop their skills while it counted toward their four years of NCAA eligibility.

The change, which now affects how athletes' time is calculated, brings clarity and challenges for JUCO athletes and programs alike. At first glance, the new rule seems like a logical step toward streamlining the eligibility process. With this change, JUCO athletes have a distinct advantage: they could get a two-year head start on developing their game without sacrificing any precious eligibility they would have at a Division I or Division II school.

For many athletes, this is an opportunity to mature athletically and academically before transitioning to a four-year university, but for all athletes, the implications are profound. Under the new rule, they must think carefully about their time at a JUCO school. While JUCOs still offer a lower cost of attendance and a chance to grow as a player, the opportunity to play two years at a four-year school is now a more limited commodity.

A standout baseball player could spend two years at a JUCO but now has four years left to play at a Division I school, potentially gaining opportunities to make a more significant impact or secure a professional contract.

This change could also help JUCO programs, especially those at smaller schools. Community colleges often serve as a launching pad for athletes who aren't quite ready for Division I competition but want to work their way up. Schools like Itawamba Community College rely on these athletes to form the backbone of their programs. However, with eligibility now gained in their favor, more athletes may choose JUCOs as a viable route to NCAA Division I schools.

The result? Increasing talent at the JUCO level could help the competitiveness and recruitment of smaller programs. The focus must shift to JUCO programs. Coaches MUST emphasize that a JUCO education and athletic development still offer tremendous opportunities despite the reduced window for NCAA eligibility.

The future of JUCO athletics may depend on how quickly programs adapt to the changing dynamics, finding ways to attract talented athletes while helping them to succeed at the next level. In the end, while the new NJCAA rule is imposed, if these programs don't take action to mitigate the effects of the new regulations, then it could be all for nothing. **Roll Tribe!**



ICC Cheer earns silver at national competition

Staff Reports

Itawamba Community College's cheer team finished national runner-up at the national championships in January in Orlando, Fla., competing in the Open Small Co-Ed Division at the UCA Cheerleading and Dance National Championship at ESPN's Wide World of Sports Complex.

The Indians entered this year's competition focused on redeeming themselves after failing to qualify for the championship round of competition last season.

The team, under the direction

of Coach Bryant Nickels, advanced through the semifinal round with a raw score of 85.3 and an event score of 82.3 to earn third place at the conclusion of the Saturday competition.

The squad saved its best performance of the season for Sunday's championship round.

After being hit with three deduction points on Saturday, the Indians bounced back to only have one deduction point in the championship spotlight. The team finished tied for second with an 86.5 raw score and an 85.5 event score,

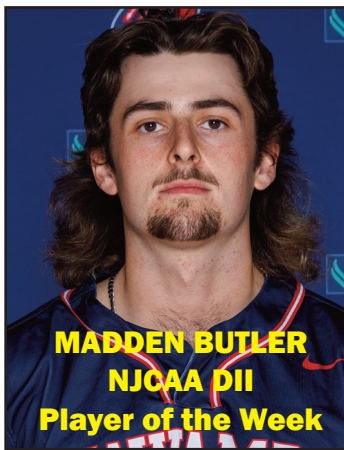
finishing nine-tenths of a point behind champion Iowa Western College.

The Indians finished tied for second with Northwest Mississippi Community College.

Members of the squad includes Addy Stanford, Demetrius Knox, Latravian Ware, Will Angle, Maddi Blanchard, Julianna Motes, Jade Smith, Noah Tooley, Mia Tooley, Chap Liles, Maddox Jones, Alicia Greenlee, Logan Lee Robertson, Claire Lowe, Jaida Lucious, Addy Brown and Brileigh Glidewell.



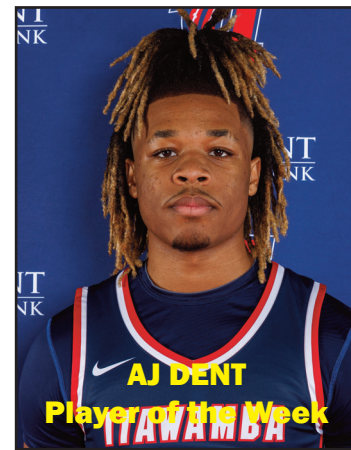
JUD FILES
Pitcher of the Week



MADDEN BUTLER
NJCAA DII
Player of the Week



JESTINY DIXON
Player of the Week



AJ DENT
Player of the Week

Itawamba Community College Sports...

ON THE SCHEDULE

BASEBALL

2.18	Co-Lin (@Delta)	TBA
2.22	Snead State	2/4:30
2.26	Northwest (@ NE)	TBA
	@Northeast	Noon
3.1	@Snead State	2/4:30
3.4	Holmes	Noon
3.4	East Central	6 p.m.
3.7	@ Miss. Delta	Noon/2:30
3.12	Gulf Coast	2/5
3.15	@Jones	2/5

MEN'S BASKETBALL

2.17	@Northwest	7:30
2.20	Southwest	7:30
2.24	@Co-Lin	7:30
2.27	East Mississippi	7:30
3.3	@Holmes	7:30

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

2.17	@Northwest	5:30
2.20	Southwest	5:30
2.24	@Co-Lin	5:30
2.27	East Mississippi	5:30
3.3	@Holmes	5:30

GOLF

3.3/4	@Warrior Classic
3.24-25	@Lou Hart Invitational

TENNIS

2.18	@Jones	TBA
2.25	Co-Lin	2 p.m.
2.28	Meridian	2 p.m.
3.4	Gulf Coast	2 p.m.
3.7	@Holmes	2 p.m.
3.21	Northeast	2 p.m.
3.25	@Northwest	TBA
3.26	@UT Southern	TBA
3.28	@East Central	2 p.m.

For the most up-to-date schedules, LetsGoICC.com

Follow ICC athletics...LetsGoICC.com or on Twitter...@LetsGoICC



Members of Itawamba Community College's Leadership Development Institute completed their year of study in January. They include, seated, from left, Alicia Thornton, Lindsey Patterson, Kaitlyn Stanfield, Rachel Steele, Stacey Loden; standing, Jason Dickinson, Lee Adams, Caleb Ramey, Jason Williams and Adam Denton.

'25 ICC LDI completes study

Staff Reports

Eleven members of Itawamba Community College's faculty and staff have graduated from its prestigious Leadership Development Institute.

They include Lindsey Patterson of Amory, Natural Science instructor/eLearning A&P lead and A&P department chair; Audra Perry of Belden, Adult Education director; Lee Adams, Bookstore manager; Kaitlyn Stanfield, Housing and Residence Life director; and Rachel Steele, director of Admissions/Registrar, all of Fulton; Jason Dickinson, Campus Police chief; and Jason Williams, Transportation director, both of Mantachie; Caleb Ramey of Red Bay, Ala., TIS systems administrator; Adam Denton of Saltillo, Respiratory Therapy program director; Stacey Loden, Workforce accountability and information specialist; and Alicia Thornton, Surgical Technology program director, both of Tupelo.

"I'm honored to have been a part of LDI, and the experience was very special," Lee Adams said. "It helped me gain a broader understanding of the three locations of the college as well as show the (ICC) cabinet and administration work to benefit the college, students, employees and surrounding communities. The program, Dr. (Jay) Allen and all of the speakers expanded my knowledge of how to lead so that I can apply it professionally, personally and as the manager of the Bookstore, I'm forever grateful for this opportunity."

Rachel Steele concurred. "he LDI experience is a gift for which I am truly grateful," she said. "Throughout the program, Dr. Allen often stated, 'The picture is always bigger than you realize.' With each session the significance of this statement advanced. My favorite session was 'ICC in the State,' where the entire class met at the state capitol. Understanding how my day-to-day tasks impact discussions and decisions at the state level was incred-

ible. Additionally, getting to know my classmates was a treasure and joy I will never forget."

LINDSEY PATTERSON

Patterson served as an adjunct instructor at ICC from 2015-16. She earned the associate's degree from ICC in 2006; bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi in 2019 and the master's degree from the University of West Alabama in 2015. Her honors include Moody Institute Trust Fund recipient. She and her husband, Linzy, are the parents of three children.

AUDRA PERRY

Perry, who is a native of Pontotoc, served for 12 years at Mississippi Delta Community College before she joined the ICC family in 2022. Her educational background includes the associate's degree from ICC in 2006 and master's degree from Mississippi State University in 2008 and Auburn University in 2011. She is currently working toward her doctoral degree from Delta State University. Perry's honors are 2024 Mississippi Association of Adult and Community Education Eloise Richardson Administrator of the Year award recipient, Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy graduate, Education Policy Fellowship Fellow, Myers-Briggs Type Indicator Certified Practitioner and Employee of the Month at Mississippi Delta. She and her husband, Hunter, have two children.

LEE ADAMS

Adams, who joined the ICC family in 2014, previously served as assistant Sports Information director. His honors include more than 70 College Public Relations Association of Mississippi awards and one grand award since 2014 and recipient of the 2021 Meritorious award. He earned the associate's degree from ICC in 2012. Adams and his wife, Morgan, have two children.

KAITLYN STANFIELD

Stanfield earned the bachelor's de-

gree from Lipscomb University in 2016 and the master's degree from the University of North Alabama in 2018. She joined the ICC family in 2020 as residence hall director for Monroe Annex and Monroe Hall and subsequently administrative assistant to the vice president of Student Services and the director of Housing.

RACHEL STEELE

Steele's educational background includes the bachelor's degree from Central Baptist College and the master's degree from Arkansas Tech University. Her previous positions at ICC include academic mentor and Instructional Support Services coordinator. She and her husband, Jake, are the parents of two children.

JASON DICKINSON

Dickinson previously served as chief investigator with the Itawamba County Sheriff's office before joining the ICC family in 2021. He earned A.A.S. degrees in agribusiness (1995) and law enforcement (2017) from ICC. Dickinson's honors include president of the Mississippi Police Chief College Association and certifications in law enforcement, state and national instructor, SWAT operator, K-9 bomb handler, firearms instruction, state investigator, emergency driving instructor and active shooter instructor. He and his wife, Amanda, have two children and one grandchild.

JASON WILLIAMS

Williams, who has been employed at ICC since 2023, earned the associate's degree from ICC in 1995. He and his wife, Ruth Ann, are the parents of two children.

CALEB RAMEY

Ramey began his employment at ICC in 2020 at the Telecommunications and Information Systems helpdesk. He earned the associate's degree at ICC and both the bachelor's

and master's degrees from the University of North Alabama. His honors include a five-yr service award from Acco Brands. Ramey and his wife, Alaina, have two children.

ADAM DENTON

Denton served as director of clinical education at ICC from 2006-16. He earned the associate's degree in Respiratory Therapy from ICC in 2001 and the bachelor's degree in Health Sciences from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in 2008. He received the NISOD Excellence Award in 1016. Denton and his wife, Noelle, have three children.

STACEY LODEN

Loden joined the ICC family in 2017 as a SNAP E&T pilot program Career Navigator. Her educational background includes the associate's degree from ICC and the bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi. Loden's honors are the Jim Ingram Community Leadership Institute Class of 2013 and NEWMS Success Skills graduate in 2018. She is a member of the First Baptist Church in Tupelo, AAAI/ISMA certified cycling instructor and BLS CPR instructor. Loden and her husband, Justin, are the parents of one son.

ALICIA THORNTON

Thornton, who joined the ICC family in 2022, was surgical first assistant at Baptist Golden Triangle for 10 years and program director at East Mississippi Community College for two years. She earned both the Associate of Arts and Associate of Applied Sciences degrees from ICC and the bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Thornton's honors include Black History Health and Wellness award and member of the AST Mississippi State Assembly Board of Directors. She and her husband, Jirmichael, have two children.

Enrollment up from page one

Allen also noted that data from the Institutions of Higher Learning shows that ICC produces graduates that when they attend any of the state's eight universities, they generate the second highest number of bachelor's degrees by transfer students. They also graduate with a higher GPA than the student who started at the university.

"We are always excited to hear that more students have chosen to

become a member of our ICC family," said Michael Holloway, director of Recruitment and Orientation. "Free spring orientation sessions will begin soon at both our Fulton and Tupelo campuses, and there multiple opportunities to attend in April, June and July. Students who are joining our ICC family this fall will receive their BEST start as they learn about ICC, hear from college ad-

ministrators, schedule their classes and begin to prepare for their transition to ICC. I truly believe that ICC provides the best instruction in academic transfer, career education and health sciences programs, including those that are online. The many resources and opportunities available to students at the Fulton, Tupelo and Belden locations enhance the overall

student experience and help ICC students achieve success. From the first time a student arrives at an ICC location or begins one of our fully online programs to the day they complete their degree or certification, ICC provides wraparound services throughout the entire process. It's an exciting time to be at ICC, where we ensure that the BEST start here."